

Serial No. 10/071,840

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darouiche in view of Redkar are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 72 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)—Darouiche, Helmus et al., Zaffaroni et al. and Braden et al.

Claim 72 is presently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darouiche in view of Helmus et al., Zaffaroni et al. and Braden.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and its supporting remarks.

For example, as noted above, each of claims 1 and 72 is patentable over Darouiche. For example, Darouiche neither teaches nor suggests the use of a microbial attachment/biofilm synthesis inhibitor selected from NSAIDs (e.g., salicylic acid, its salts or its derivatives), chelating agents, and mixtures thereof. Nor does Darouiche teach or suggest such a microbial attachment/biofilm synthesis inhibitor in combination with an antimicrobial agent.

As also noted above, Helmus et al., Zaffaroni et al. and Braden do not make up for the above deficiencies in Darouiche.

For at least the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 72 are patentable over Darouiche in view of Helmus et al., Zaffaroni et al. and Braden.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 72 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darouiche in view of Helmus et al., Zaffaroni et al. and Braden are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims of the present invention are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

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The Office is authorized to charge any fees required, to deposit account number 50-1047.

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Respectfully submitted,



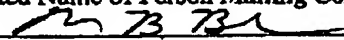
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